

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Homewood

other John and Addie Maddox House

### 2. Location

street and number 550 Reading Avenue not for publication

city, town Rockville vicinity

county Montgomery

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Richard Ellis Smith and Jane O. MacFarlane

street and number 550 Reading Avenue telephone

city, town Rockville state Md zip code 20850

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County liber 18927 folio 581

city, town Rockville tax map GR42 tax parcel P303 tax ID number 04-00177843

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	2	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

**Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory**

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

Inventory No.

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### SUMMARY

Homewood, a c. 1900 vernacular farmhouse at 550 Reading in the Janeta Subdivision, sits on a tree-shaded lot of slightly less than an acre. It faces Baltimore Road, surrounded by small Cape Cod and ranch-style houses on small lots, facing Reading Avenue. (see photos 1, 2, and 3.) (Only one older house is in view, 419 Reading, photo 4.) It is characterized by a slate roof, red brick chimney rising from its east addition, a tan-painted stucco exterior, red-brick patios, and three open and one enclosed porch attached to three asymmetrically-placed two-story masses. An asphalt driveway leads to a stuccoed two-car garage, with its original openings. Many large old trees remain, surrounded by a grassy lawn. The foundation material is not visible.



Adjacent houses on Reading Avenue



Photo 3 - 800 Block of Reading Ave., even side



Photo 4 - 419 Reading Avenue



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### DESCRIPTION

The attached tax assessor's worksheet shows the plan and dimensions of Homewood. The north two-story front gable section appears to be the oldest, with two-over-two windows characteristic of c. 1900. In the front attic gable, there are decorative shingles and two pair of small windows, which could be considered Queen Anne details. A two-story bay protrudes from the east elevation of the main block. The rear addition is flush with the east and south gable elevations; some of its windows are one-over-one, like those of the garage, and appear to be later, perhaps 1920's to 1940's Craftsman-style; others are two-over-two, perhaps recycled from the rear of the main mass when the addition was put on. The west addition has two-over-two windows, its cross gable intersecting the main block. Its first floor diagonal corner windows form a three-window bay, with Craftsman trim under the overhang.



Homewood: 550 Reading Avenue – Original Front, facing Baltimore Road



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West Elevation and Front Lawn



West Elevation, detail



East Elevation above and detail below





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Rear elevation and rear lawn

Photos by Harry Smith, Planner I, City of Rockville and Gail Littlefield.



Garage off Reading Avenue

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. \_\_\_\_\_

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

\_\_\_\_\_ National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ Maryland Register

\_\_\_\_\_ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SUMMARY

Homewood, the property located at 550 Reading Avenue, is significant architecturally, for its landscape, and for its historical associations with the prominent Maddox family and with the growth of Rockville after the coming of the B & O Railroad in 1873. The house is an example of a c.1900 vernacular farmhouse, with additions probably expressing the needs and tastes of its many owners since 1917, when it was sold out of the Maddox family. Although the property has been reduced from the time the house was built, the property still retains its country feel, surrounded by small modern houses on small lots. It retains many fine specimen trees.

### NARRATIVE

The Addie and John Maddox House, “Homewood”, 550 Reading, is located in Block 4 of the Janeta Subdivision of Rockville, adjacent to Rockville Park. Janeta is named for Catherine Jane Harding, who inherited the 156 ½ acre MaGrath Place tract from her grandfather Adam Robb.<sup>1</sup> She was the second wife (married 1866) of Dr. Charles J. Maddox, prominent Rockville physician and citizen. Dr. and Catharine Jane Harding Maddox, and his children from his first marriage, lived at 22 E. Montgomery Ave. in Rockville in the 1860’s and 1870’s.<sup>2</sup> The 1880 census has the Dr. Maddox family living in the Village of Rockville, enumerated after the Thomas Anderson (“lawyer”) household.<sup>3</sup> It is not known who if anyone resided on the Magrath Place property after Mrs. Maddox inherited it.

She died in 1897, leaving in her will dated 1883 her estate to her husband, Dr. Maddox, and upon his death to his children. However, at least ten years before her death, Dr Maddox, “owner,” platted the

<sup>1</sup> Hurley, William, *The Maddox Family* (MCHS) at 61 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> Hurley at 68-69, photo of home/office and c. 1878 plat of Rockville.

<sup>3</sup> 1880 Census, MCHS.

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Janeta subdivision out of the Magrath Place property.<sup>4</sup> (plats attached) A deed reference of JA6/482 is given for the two plats of Janeta that Dr. Maddox filed. However, the document in JA 6 at 482 is a deed, dated 12/6/1887, for a one-third acre lot, sold by the Maddoxes for \$100. The deed merely makes passing reference to “the division of lands belonging to Catharine Maddox into squares and lots.” The plats themselves are not dated. One apparently was prepared prior to 1890, since it refers to the adjoining subdivision as “Readington.” William Reading platted Reading’s Addition in 1888, after acquiring it in 1884. (plat 11) The other plat (10) apparently superceded plat 11, since it refers to the adjoining subdivision as “Rockville Park,” platted in 1890.

After Dr Maddox’ death in 1899, his children divided the Magrath Place property that they had inherited from their stepmother. John Maddox was deeded Block 4 and the north half of Block 3 of Janeta.<sup>5</sup> Block 4 had been subdivided into 4 unequal unnumbered lots on plat 11, three on plat 10. No structures are shown on the plats. John Maddox later added two adjacent contiguous lots in Rockville Park (lots 47 and 48, block 7, facing Baltimore Road) to his homestead.<sup>6</sup>

John Maddox was born in 1852, the oldest of the children of Dr. Maddox and his first wife. In 1895, in St. Mary’s County, he married Adrianna Gough. In 1907, John Maddox died, leaving his wife Addie and four children. In his will, John Maddox left Homewood, “a frame dwelling,” to his wife Addie.<sup>7</sup> After his death, the family returned to St. Mary’s County.<sup>8</sup> Adriana lived to be 86 years old, was “a keen old lady, and served as St. Mary’s County Registrar of Wills from 1934 to 1938.”<sup>9</sup>

The construction date of Homewood, the 550 Reading house, is not known with certainty. The tax assessor’s records list an 1898 construction date, which is possible. (attached) An undated “plat of the Magrath Place”, numbered 210<sup>10</sup>, copy attached, shows Block 4 of Janeta labeled “John Maddox” with a house in the approximate location of the present house. It was surely constructed before 1907, when John Maddox signed his will, referring to his residence, Homewood.<sup>11</sup> It can be assumed from the 1900 Census, at which time the Jack (John) Maddox household is not in the Town of Rockville, but in the County surrounded by farmers, that they had moved to his new property. The household consisted of Jack and Adriana, three of his siblings, three daughters, a boarder, and two servants. Jack is listed as “insurance collector”, his brother Charles a “surveyor,” his sister Mary a “farmer, and his sister Anna, a “stenographer.”<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid; JA 6/483; Plats 10 and 11.

<sup>5</sup> TD 17/217, 6/13/1901.

<sup>6</sup> 188/101, 2/9/1906; Hurley at 71.

<sup>7</sup> Wills HCA 4/382, made 3/7/1907.

<sup>8</sup> Hurley at 71 et seq.

<sup>9</sup> Hurley at 71.

<sup>10</sup> Attached; from MCHS; not on file at Montgomery County land records.

<sup>11</sup> Wills HCA4/382, made 3/7/1907.

<sup>12</sup> 1900 Census, MCHS.

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It is not known whether Homewood was occupied from 1907 to 1917, when Addie Maddox sold Homewood (Janeta block 4 and north part of block 3), and the two Rockville Park lots, to Walter S. Thompson.<sup>13</sup> Thompson had already bought the next three Rockville Park lots adjacent to the Maddoxes' in block 7, for a total of 5 lots, 44-48.<sup>14</sup> Walter S. Thompson had married Bessie May Belt in 1906.<sup>15</sup> In 1924, they sold the property to Floyd and Ida F. Moore.<sup>16</sup> When Ida Moore, widow, sold the property in 1941 to Karl and Ruth C. Habel, it was "part of" the earlier tract, minus the northern half of Block 3 of Janeta.<sup>17</sup> In 1947, the Habels sold their tract to Robert and Mary Julia Mc Clurkin, which now consisted of the 5 lots in Rockville Park and "the northern portion of Block 4, Janeta."<sup>18</sup> The McClurkins took out \$18,000 in two notes for their purchase.<sup>19</sup> In 1953, the McClurkins sold the property, consisting of the 5 Rockville Park lots and "the northern part of Block 4, Janeta", (not described) to John H. and Maxine Glover.<sup>20</sup> In 1953, half of block 4, Janeta, was subdivided into 12 lots.<sup>21</sup>

In 1959, the McClurkins' note to the Montgomery County National Bank was foreclosed on.<sup>22</sup> At public auction on 4/30/1959, the August Investment Co. bought the northern part of block 4, Janeta, the five Rockville Park lots, and two more Rockville Park lots (lots 1 and 2, block 7, also adjacent to Homewood and facing Reading Ave.) for \$17,500.<sup>23</sup> In 1959, the August Investment Co. subdivided the part of block 4 upon which Homewood sat, creating lots 13 and 14 out of the northeast corner of the tract.<sup>24</sup> "Parcel A" on that plat, attached, probably represented the configuration of the Homewood tract.

Later in 1959, the August Investment Co. sold the Homewood property and three Rockville Park lots (lot 48, facing Baltimore Road, and lots 1 and 2, facing Reading Avenue) totaling 1.3519 acre, to Glenn J. and Christina F. Baldwin. The seller took back a note for \$5,426.<sup>25</sup> In 1964, the Baldwins sold the same land to Francis S. and Mary P. Gospoderek.<sup>26</sup> In 1971, the Gospodereks sold 953 square feet of the property along Baltimore Road to the City.<sup>27</sup> The Gospodereks, through their attorney, sold the all the remaining property to Lawrence Thomas, Jr., and Genevieve C. Carroll, with a note for \$85,000.<sup>28</sup> In 1979, the Carrolls sold it to Irene and Gregory Dybalski; Gregory Dybalski got the property in a

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<sup>13</sup> 268/192, 8/30/1917.

<sup>14</sup> 262/336, 4/2/1917.

<sup>15</sup> Montgomery Sentinel Genealogical Abstracts (MCHS).

<sup>16</sup> 352/231, 5/2/1924.

<sup>17</sup> 864/13, 11/18/1941.

<sup>18</sup> 1065/122, 2/25/1947.

<sup>19</sup> 1065/124, 1065/127, 2/25/1947.

<sup>20</sup> 1882/249, 12/29/53.

<sup>21</sup> Plat 3484.

<sup>22</sup> Equity #21377.

<sup>23</sup> 2621/444, 6/30/59.

<sup>24</sup> Plat 5732, dated June, 1959, filed 10/1/59.

<sup>25</sup> 2661/584, 587, 10/3/59

<sup>26</sup> 3274/238, 9/20/64.

<sup>27</sup> 4140/140, 10/22/1971.

<sup>28</sup> 4852/215, 217, 9/29/76.



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“Property Settlement Agreement between husband and wife” in 1981.<sup>29</sup> Gregory Dybalski later transferred the property to himself and his new wife, Bonnie.<sup>30</sup> In 1998, the Dybalskis sold the property to Martin J. Miller and Joanne Meszoly for \$233,000.<sup>31</sup> In 2001, Miller and Meszoly sold it to the present owners, Richard Ellis Smith and Jane O. MacFarlane for \$345,000.<sup>32</sup>

The Parcel number for the property is P303 on the tax assessor’s records—the printout for parcel 303 indicates that at least part of lot 48, block 7, Rockville Park is included in the parcel. The tax assessor’s database (attached) indicates the property land area is 36,245 sq feet. The parcel description in the deed of transfer to Smith and MacFarlane (attached) indicates it should be 40,189 square feet. It is not known what accounts for this apparent discrepancy.

The landscape around Homewood has changed drastically since it was built around 1900. At one time the property consisted of all of Block 4 of Janeta and adjoining lots in Rockville Park. It faced Baltimore Road, near its intersection with what is now Route 28, then First Street. The house is architecturally significant, as a late nineteenth-century farmhouse, which has survived amidst small mid-to late twentieth century Cape Cods and ranch-style houses. The house is now entered from Reading Avenue, where its garage is located. It is not known whether historically its entry was oriented to Baltimore Road, or whether it had outbuildings, gardens, cultivated fields, etc. The house appears to have been added onto liberally in its life. The stucco siding obscures evidence of its evolution. The “Plat of the Magrath Place” shows the footprint of a house with a long narrow north-south portion, with prominent but not equal additions on the east and west. That footprint is not totally inconsistent with the present footprint. It retains what are probably some of its original decorative features, such as the decorative shingles in the front gable and the front entry with sidelights. The end wall of the east addition expresses a characteristic associated with early Rockville houses, a three-sided first floor bay below a flat wall above. Pendant finials mark the overhang of the second floor.

The landscape of Homewood is also significant for its large number of old trees.

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<sup>29</sup> 5403/080, 9/13/1979; 5720/823, 4/28/81.

<sup>30</sup> 6485/551, 8/3/84.

<sup>31</sup> 15775/382, 4/27/98.

<sup>32</sup> 18927/581, 3/26/2001.

## Inventory No.

## 10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale:

**11. Form Prepared by**

state

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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